

Empower Eau Claire Participatory Budgeting Cycle 1 Ballot



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How to Vote

VOTING PERIOD: April 26 – May 13

VOTE IN PERSON

L.E. Phillips Library	OR	L.E. Phillips Senior Center
During Normal Library Hours		May 7 Only 7am-7pm
2725 Mall Drive		1616 Bellinger St

VOTE ONLINE AND LEARN MORE

EauClaireWI.gov/Empower

Chippewa Valley Bike Route Wayfinding Signs

Location: Multiple

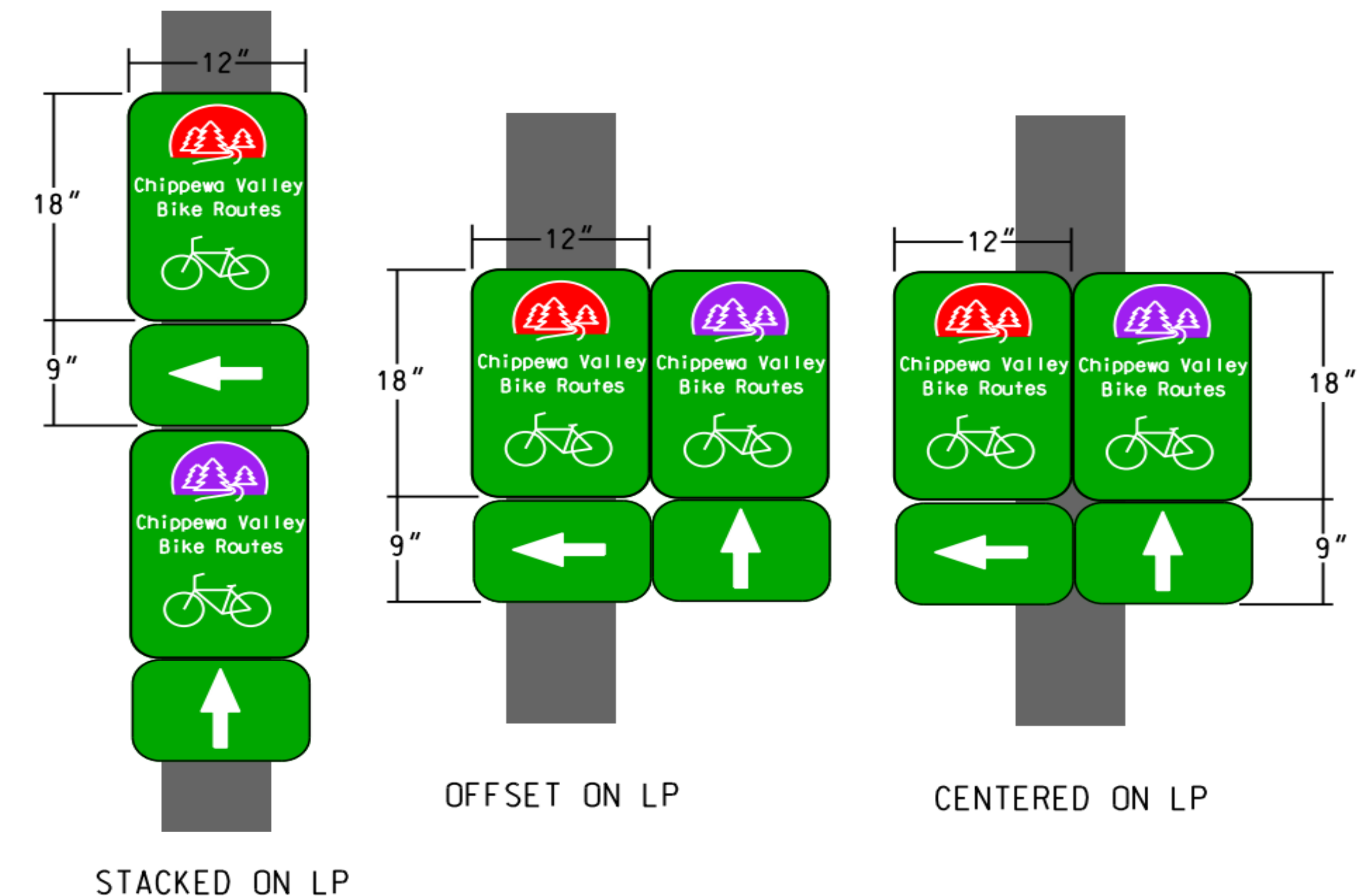
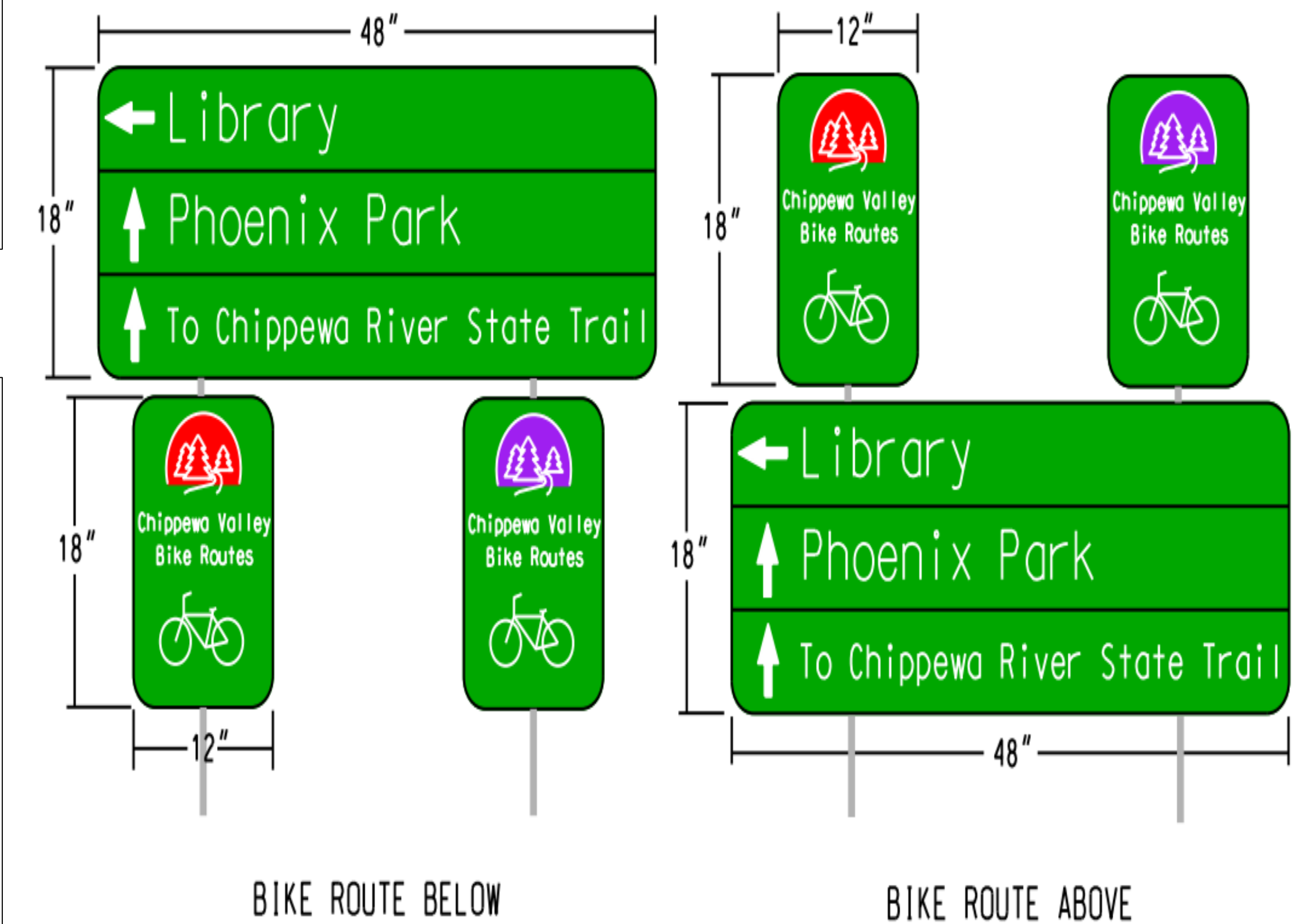


Wayfinding signs for Eau Claire bike trails as recommended in the 2017-2027 Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Signs would direct pedestrians and bicyclists to nearby amenities and identify routes. The signage would be consistent throughout the region to help ensure ease of use of trails.

Estimated
Cost
\$115,000

The 2017-2027 Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan includes a recommendation to “provide consistency in signage for street signs, wayfinding signs, trail signs, and trail map signs.” Cohesive signage in the region is important to help pedestrian and cyclists identify and safely use trails. It is also beneficial to our tourists visiting the region and using our trail systems.

The initial steps of creating a consistent design has been completed. Locations for the signs on area bike trails have been identified. This request will help fund managing the installation of the signs and gaps in existing funds designated for the project. Funding would allow for all primary route signs and hardware to be purchased and signs to be installed. Remaining funds would apply towards installing secondary route signage.



Sojourner House Solar Array

Location: 618 S. Barstow St.



This project funds solar electric panels on the new rooftop of the Sojourner House shelter for the unhoused. This will reduce annual operating expenses.

Estimated
Cost
\$30,930

The Sojourner House Solar Array project will provide for a more environmental-friendly operation while minimizing costs. The solar array will improve long-term sustainability of the facility and allow funding to be used for more direct support of the guests who will utilize the day/night services of the Sojourner House.

The expansion and renovation of Sojourner House will provide many benefits to the shelter for the unhoused. The expansion addresses health and safety needs by allowing for proper social distancing while maintaining the current 53 guest capacity.

The additional office space allows the shelter staff to be more effective in safety and case management services and also allows for an expansion of wrap around, day-time services to the marginalized.



Source: Leader Telegram



Source: New York City



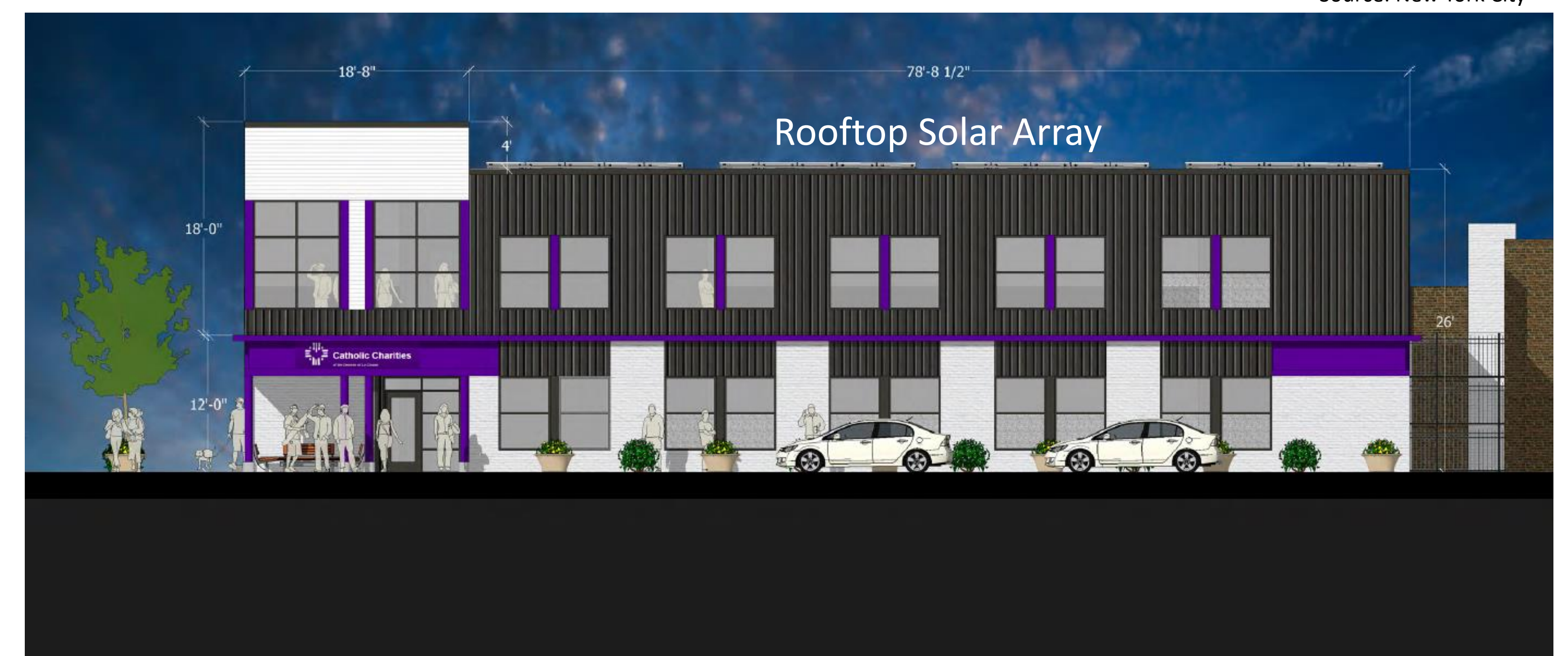
Sojourner House Addition & Renovation
Catholic Charities
Eau Claire, WI

Aerial View

WIESER
BROTHERS
General Contractor, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING
INTERIOR DESIGN
HSR Associates

8.9.21



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of La Crosse

Sojourner House Addition & Renovation
Catholic Charities
Eau Claire, WI

Barstow Street Elevation

WIESER
BROTHERS
General Contractor, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING
INTERIOR DESIGN
HSR Associates

8.9.21

Invasive Species Management

Location: Parks, trails, detention ponds, and other public spaces

Purchase a Seppi CL 150 forest mulcher to remove invasive species in public places. The mulcher will allow staff to remove a greater amount of invasive species more efficiently.

Estimated
Cost
\$41,400

A Seppi CL150 will make staff more efficient and remove dangerous invasive species from our community, improving our natural ecosystem and allowing residents to better enjoy the natural environment, and use our recreational spaces.

The City has identified the location of many of the invasive species within our community and works each summer to remove all it can but there is a limited amount of staff time that can be put to the project due to funding. A Seppi CL150 mulcher would attach to existing city equipment and allow an operator to cut, grind, and clear vegetation. With the next run, the operator would reduce the materials to a state so fine residents would be able to walk on. This means, an area which was once covered with an invasive species is now accessible for the public to use. This is why the purchase of a Seppi CL150 would be a game changer, because it will allow staff to remove more invasive species than before and leave behind areas which are suitable for recreational use by the public.



Source: Seppi.com



Source: Seppi.com



Source: Seppi.com

Stairway to Dell's Pond (Ruby Lane)

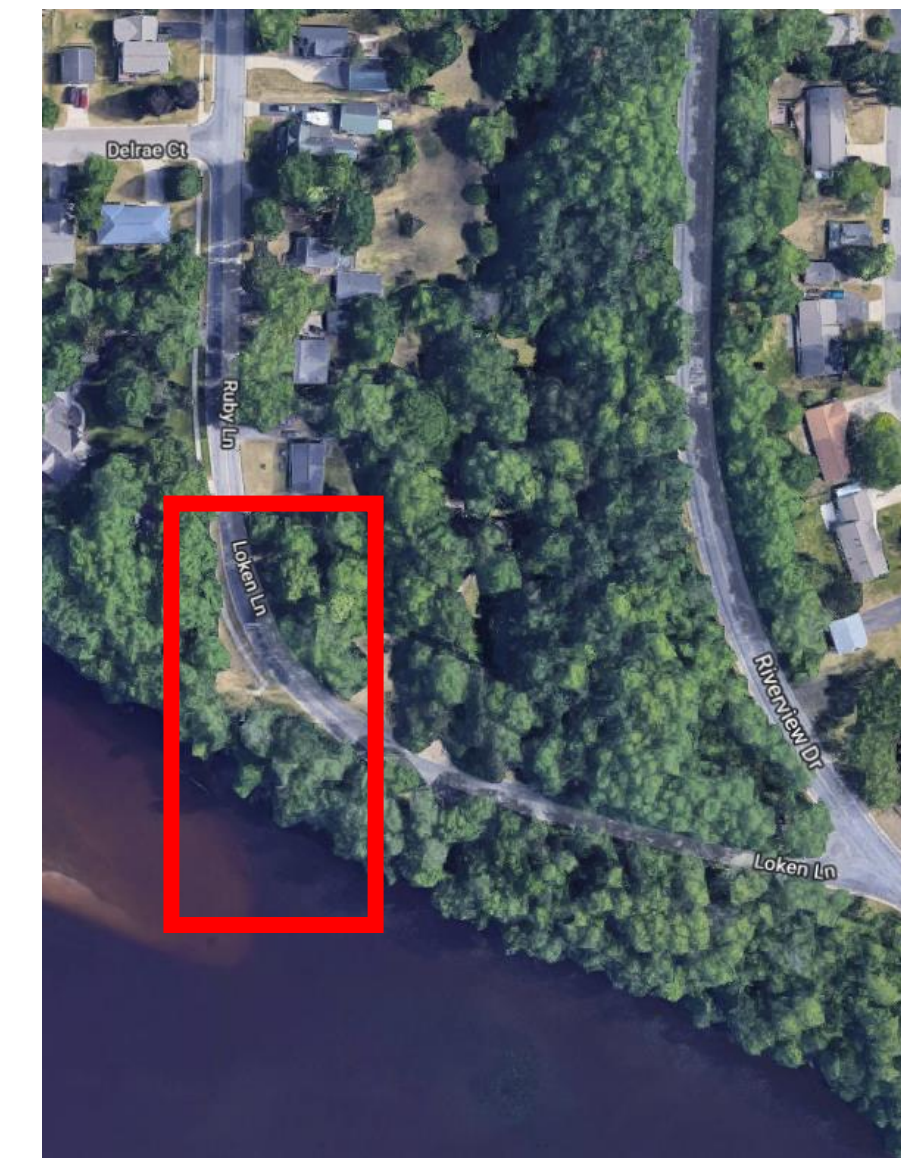
Location: Ruby Lane/Dell's Pond



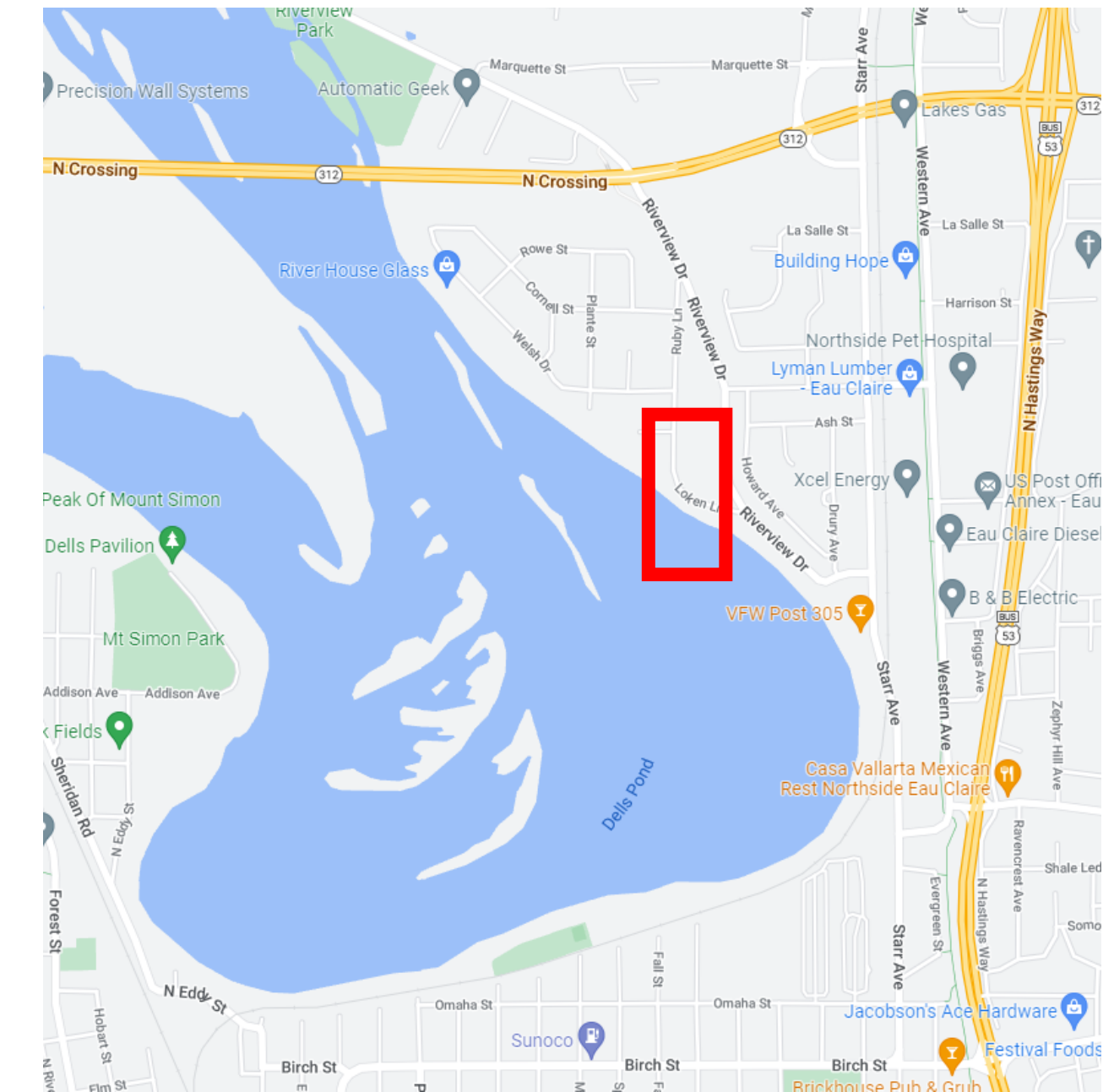
Stairs would be added to the trail at the end of Ruby Lane down to Dell's Pond. The stairs will create another access point to Dell's Pond allowing residents opportunities for many recreational benefits.

Estimated
Cost
\$69,000

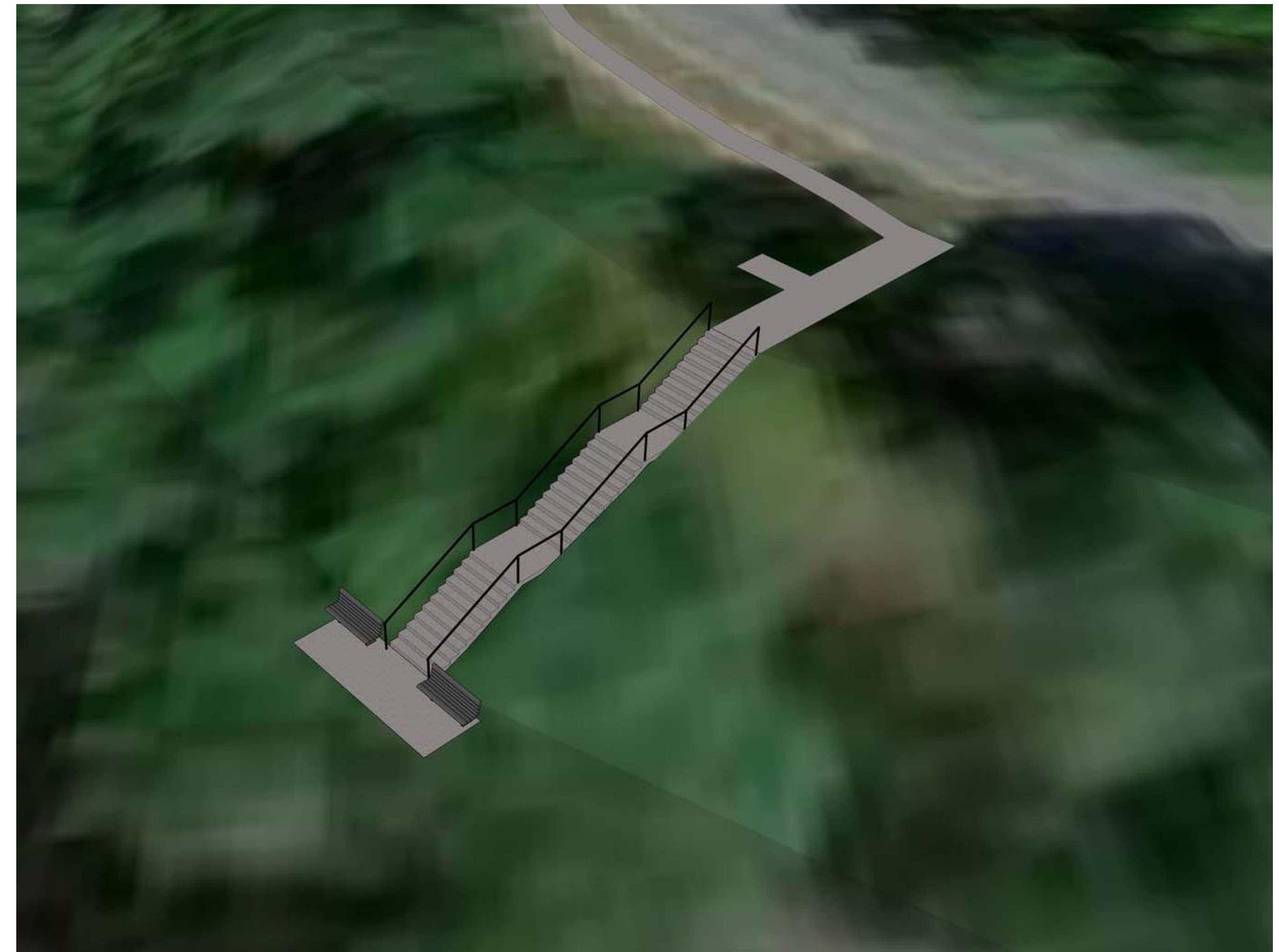
Dell's Pond has few access points due to the cliffs around the lake. The location at Ruby Lane is one of the few locations where additional access can be added by including stairs from the neighborhood and trail down to the lake. This has been an idea that has been worked on previously by the City, but funding has prevented it from being implemented. The stairs would be concrete to help ensure long-term sustainability. Increasing access points to Dell's Pond will help make the lake usable by more residents.



Source: Google Maps



Source: Google Maps



Eau Claire Cultural Trail

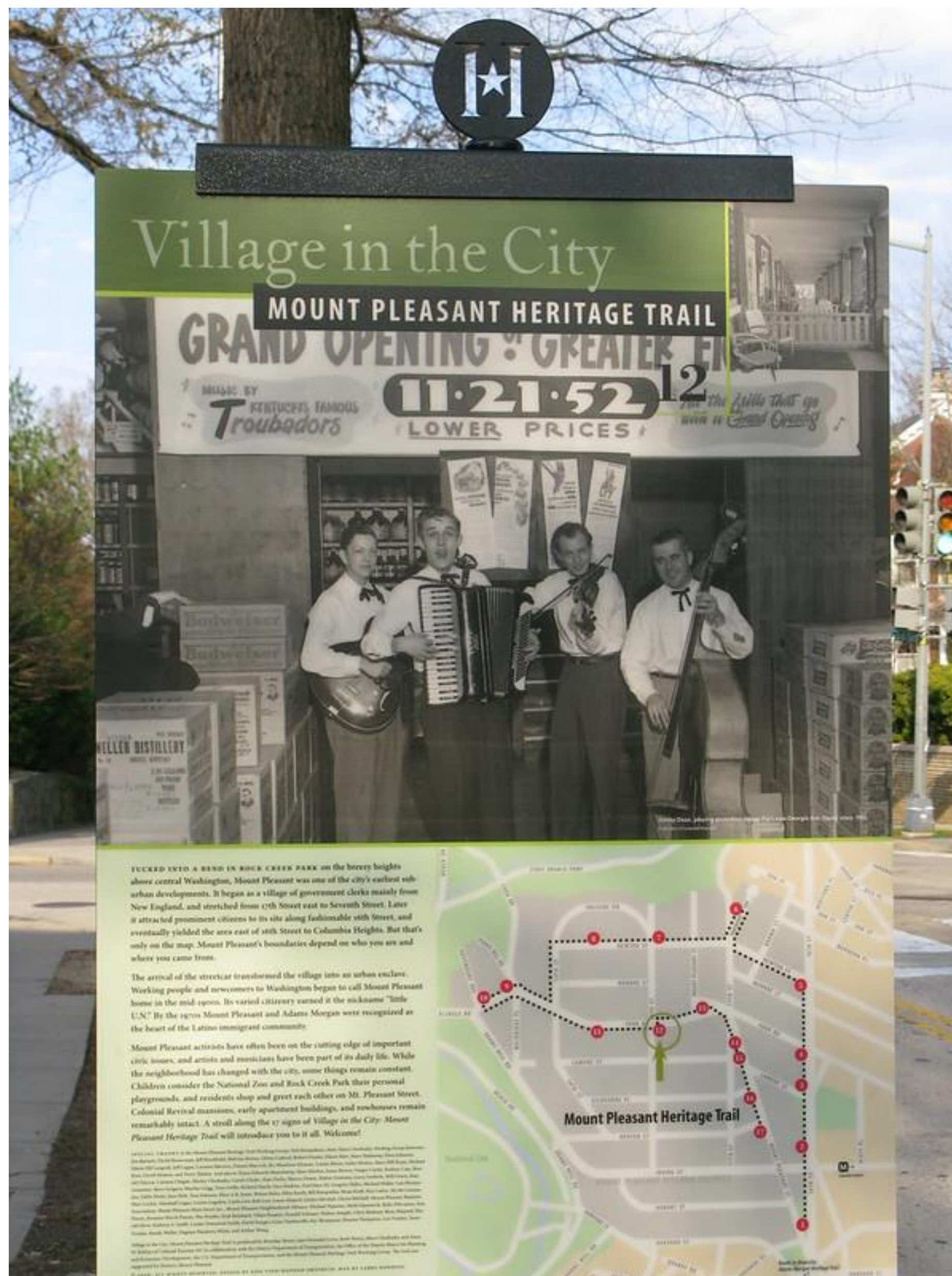


Location: Along city trails to be determined - the Hmong and Latino communities will be consulted for final location

Create a cultural trail to celebrate our city's rich history and to recognize the contributions many cultures made to the growth and development of our community.

Estimated
Cost
\$50,000

To celebrate our history and the contributions different immigrant groups make to our community we propose the creation a cultural trail by adding art along our city trail and tunnel system. The art will highlight different themes including the Hmong and Latino communities and their unique culture and impact they have on our community. To make sure the works represent their communities Visit Eau Claire will work with the Hmong and Latino communities to select the right art, artists, and locations.



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ethomsen/2353882894/in/photostream/>



Source: <https://indyculturaltrail.org/>



Source: <https://indyculturaltrail.org/>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ingridt/2660649267>

Feed My People: Hunger Action-Emergency Response Center Equipment

Location: 2610 Alpine Road



Feed My People (FMP) is expanding its current facility to add a Hunger Action Center, providing additional capacity to address root causes of food insecurity. This project will fund the purchase of shipping and receiving equipment for the new warehouse space. Requested equipment includes a pallet wrapper, scale, shelving/racking, and security cameras/recording equipment. The additional space will support FMP's Emergency Response Program, providing storage for food boxes, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies to facilitate rapid response to natural, health, or other disasters. This will allow FMP to immediately open its doors and feed people out of the food bank during times of crisis.

Estimated
Cost
\$50,000



More people in Eau Claire are facing food insecurity due to record inflation and pandemic-related expenses.

Expanded warehouse facilities will increase capacity for FMP's existing food distribution program serving area food pantries. In addition to providing increased support for culturally responsive food initiatives for Eau Claire's Hmong and Latino communities, the new warehouse facility will also include space for food, hygiene, and cleaning supplies to improve rapid emergency responses to natural, health, or other disasters.

The outdoor security monitoring equipment recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture includes video cameras with recording capability for outside loading dock, entrances, and parking lot.

6.6
MILLION
pounds of food
distributed
annually

264
hunger-relief
programs

64,000
individuals
receive food
annually

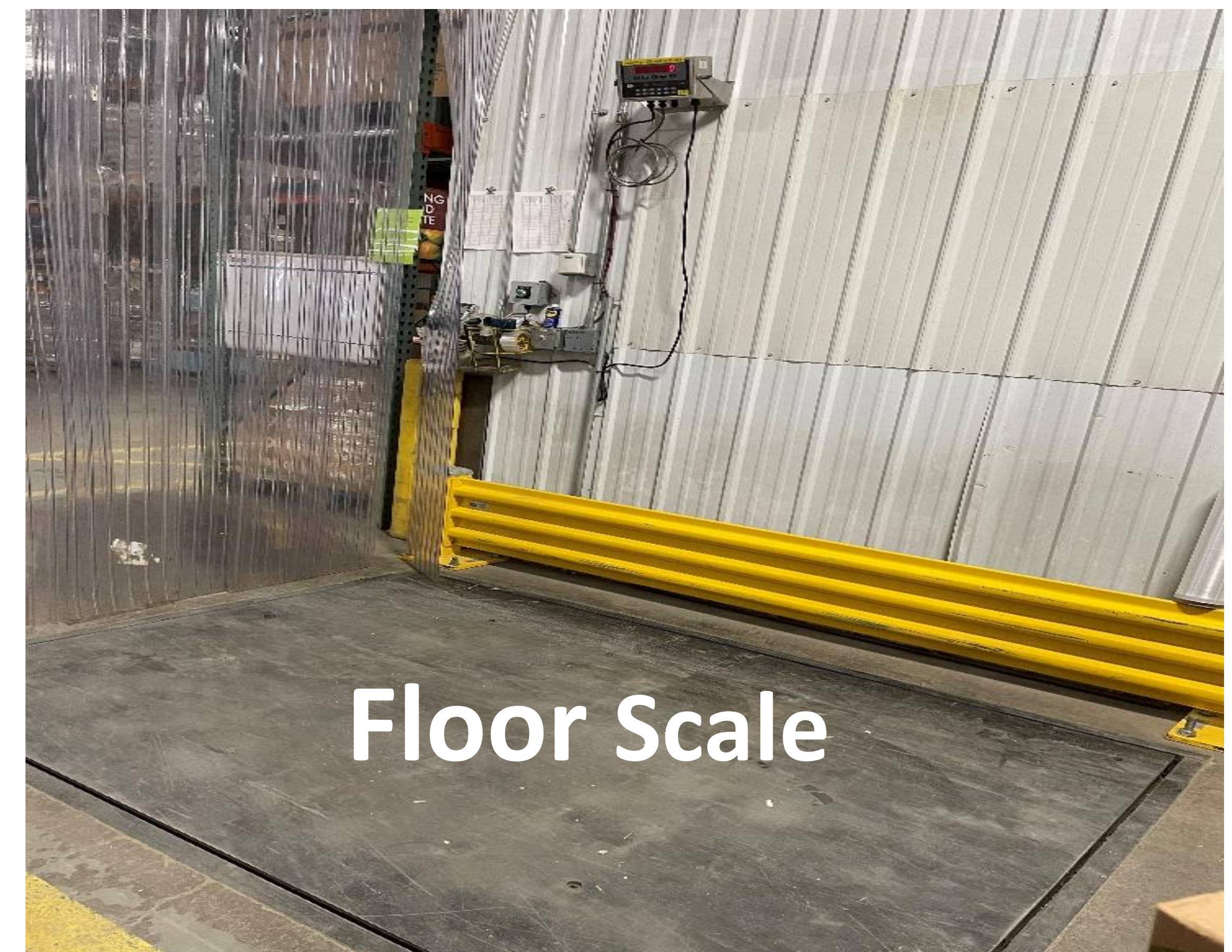
21,700
meals per day

224,306
visits by kids in
2021 to receive
food

14
counties in our
service area

Source: Feed My People

Medium Duty High
Performance Pallet
Wrapper Machine
Source: Vestil Manufacturing



Floor Scale

Neighborhood Branding

Location: Active Neighborhood Associations



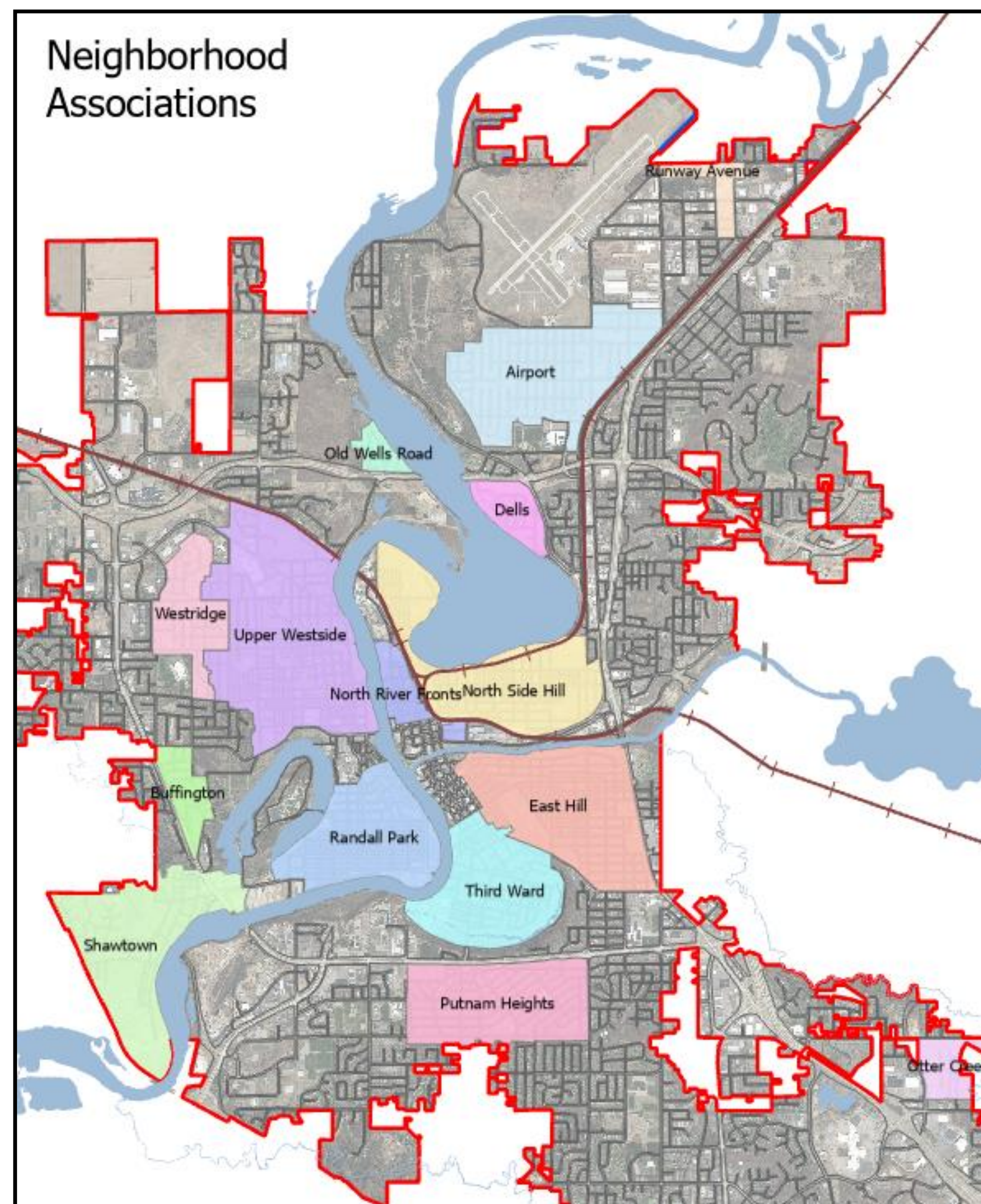
Unique street signs designed by neighborhood associations to create neighborhood identity.

Estimated
Cost
\$25,000

Active neighborhood associations will work with city staff to create and place sign caps on key intersections within their boundaries. First, the neighborhood associations will create the contents and design of the street caps with the assistance of city staff. Next, staff will install the street caps at key intersections to create a neighborhood identity.



Source: Steve Morgan, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Source: AtlasPDX82, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



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LED Lighting at Phoenix Park & Farmer's Market Pavilion



Location: Phoenix Park and Farmer's Market Pavilion

Funding would update light fixtures and install LED lighting in Phoenix Park and the Farmer's Market Pavilion saving the city money, providing environmental benefits, and helping to eliminate light pollution.

Estimated
Cost
\$126,615

Currently the City of Eau Claire switches to LED lights as existing bulbs fail. Updating all lights at one time is more cost effective versus one at a time. 78 light fixtures in the park and Farmer's Market Pavilion would be updated from conventional lights to LED technology.


LED lighting has many benefits:

- LEDs are more energy-efficient using about 70% less energy than traditional lighting.
- LEDs have a longer lifespan, resulting in increased reliability and reduced maintenance costs.
- LEDs provide increased illumination, more uniform and even lighting distribution, and less light pollution spilling into the night sky.
- LEDs operate better in cold weather.

Additional and more direct lighting will make the park more inviting after dark and improve safety along the trails and other areas in Phoenix Park.


The long life of the lights and reduced energy costs will result in an overall cost savings for the City. The proposed budget includes contractor installation.


Did you know?



Compared to conventional lights, LEDs produce **MORE LIGHT PER WATT** of power consumed.

The **"DAYLIGHT"** appearance of LEDs offers aesthetic and safety appeal.





LEDs don't need to warm up! Upon turning on, they're **IMMEDIATELY AT 100% BRIGHTNESS.**

Source: Otter Tail Power Company



Source: City of Milpitas



Source: ayersassocaites.com



Source: ecdowntownfarmersmarket.com

Speed Reduction Solar-Powered Signs

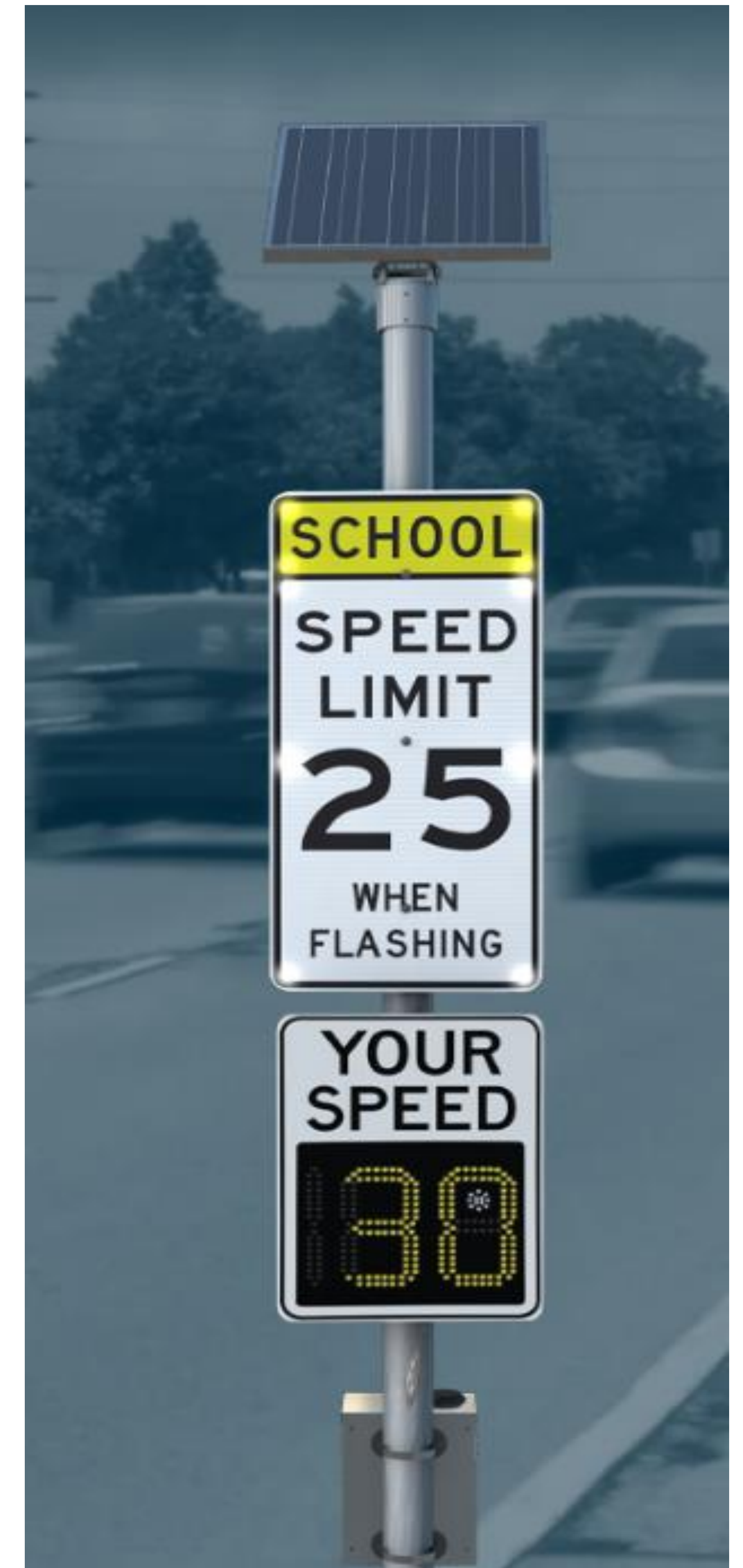
Location: Three Locations – To Be Determined



Speeding in city neighborhoods is a safety issue. Roadway infrastructure devices like digital mph feedback signs or flashing signs can help slow traffic to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, students, and people with different abilities.

Estimated
Cost
\$75,000

Requests for speed reducing infrastructure are common and a City policy is first needed to guide decision-making. Once the policy is in place in 2022, this project will install infrastructure such as speed monitor signs, flashing signs or similar type devices to help reduce speeding traffic and possible accidents. Funding is available for at least 3 priority locations that consider the policy and Empower Eau Claire goals like sustainability and equity for marginalized or vulnerable groups. To reduce operating expenses, the devices will be solar-powered to the extent feasible.



Pour and Play Playground Foundation and Wheel Chair Accessible Equipment

Location: Boyd Park 1202 Fairway Street



Boyd Park will soon have new playground equipment. This funding will add pour and play to the coming playground to allow a safer and more accessible surface to be installed. A wheelchair accessible merry-go-round will also be added to the play area.

Estimated
Cost
\$55,200



Boyd park will soon have new playground equipment added to the park. The city and neighborhood have co-funded the equipment to be installed.

Funding a Pour and Play surface allows for a soft non-slip surface that is both beautiful and durable. The type of material used for playground surfaces is important to ensure the safety of our children as most playground injuries result from trips, slips or falls on hard slick surfaces.

The addition of a wheelchair accessible merry-go-round will help create a safer playground and greater accessibility to users with different abilities. It will be the first of its kind of playground equipment in the City of Eau Claire.

The specific design of the merry-go-round will accommodate multiple users and allows easy access and use by people in wheelchairs.

The city will fund the gravel needed for the initial installation in playground costs separate from the Empower funds.



Pinehurst Park – Shipping Containers for Equipment Storage

Location: Pinehurst Park



The addition of two shipping containers for equipment storage at Pinehurst Park to eliminate current costs of renting a storage unit and summer off-site storage.

Estimated
Cost
\$19,263

Currently, a shipping container is rented to store various items during Wintermission months at Pinehurst Park. The addition of two storage containers will allow ample room for storage for current and coming projects and year-round storage to prevent costs occurred renting off-site facilities in the warmer months.

Many of the costs and labor for renovating Pinehurst Park have been taken on by community members. Funding the storage containers will help eliminate recurring costs allowing for funds to be used for future renovations and continued focus on creating a regional park for all of Eau Claire residents.

Many newer park projects have not occurred in North Eau Claire and this will help bring recreational equity to the community



Source snowtrails.com



Source S Jones Containers



Source Visit Eau Claire/Kelsey Smith



Source Chippewa Valley Family



Source: travelwisconsin.com



Source falconstructure.com

ADA Accessible Kayak/Canoe Launch

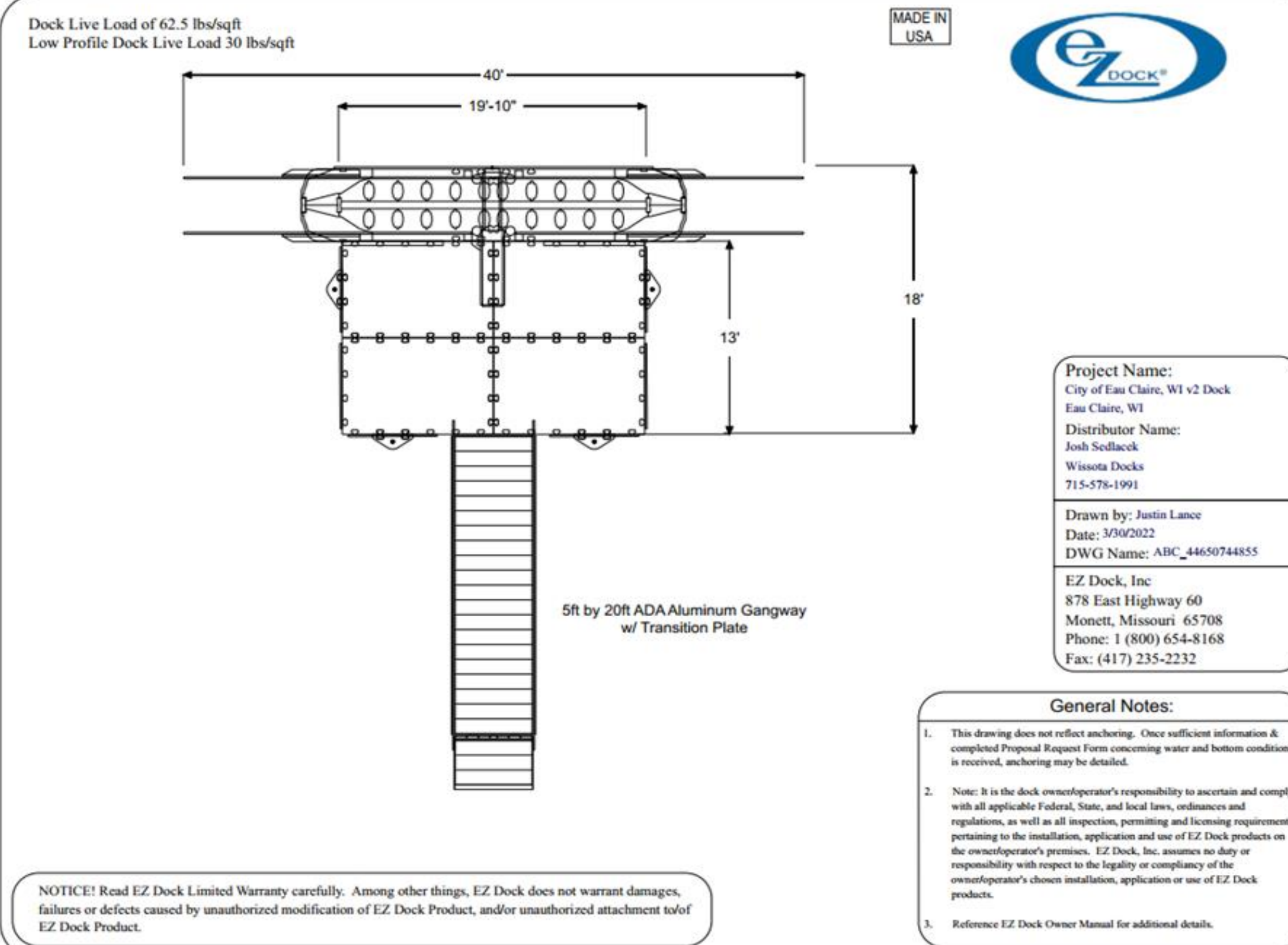
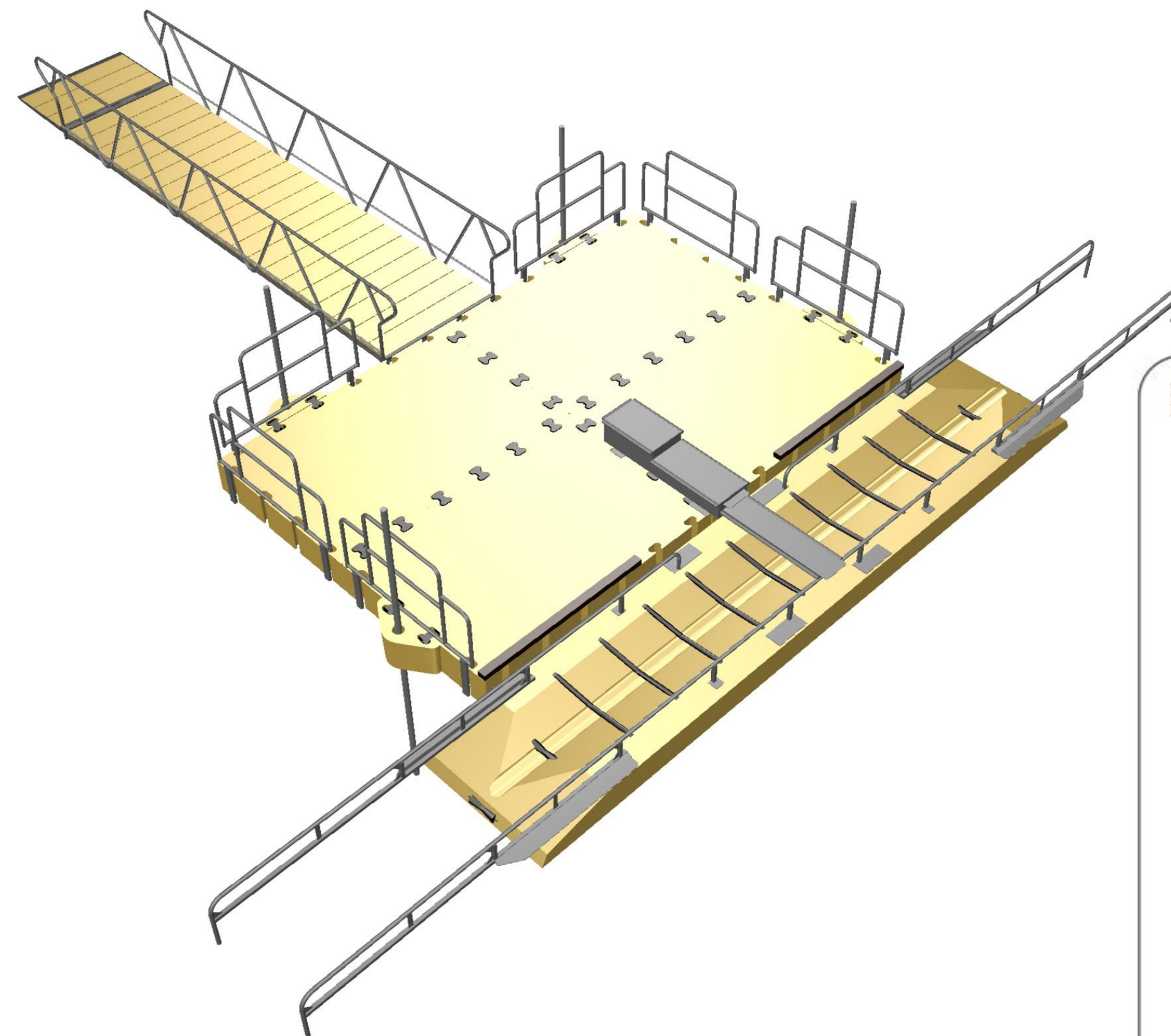
Location: Half Moon Lake/Braun's Bay



Add a EZ Dock ADA compliant kayak/canoe launch at the existing Half Moon Lake/Braun's Bay dock to allow people with all abilities greater ease to launch kayaks/canoes into Half Moon Lake.

Estimated
Cost
\$67,891

Half Moon Lake is a popular location for kayaking and canoeing in Eau Claire. Updating the current dock at Braun's Bay with an ADA accessible launch will allow easier access, launching, and docking for all experience levels and abilities. The current infrastructure at Braun's Bay will allow for easy addition of the launch. The launch includes guide rails and rollers to assist launching into the water and a transfer bench and transfer slide boards allowing users to sit, slide, and drop down into a kayak and side rails to assist users lifting out of a kayak.



Source City of Wausau



Artificial Turf Kato & Volleyball Court

Location: To Be Determined – Hmong Mutual Assistance Association will be consulted for final location.



One artificial turf volleyball court will be added to a local park to be determined if the project wins funding with assistance from the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. Grass and artificial turf Kato/volleyball fields are used by the Hmong community when playing Kato and volleyball. The addition of an artificial turf field will provide a meeting place for games and allow generations to pass down their culture to future generations.

Estimated
Cost
\$46,000

Our Hmong community plays Kato and volleyball on grass or artificial turf vs sand courts. Currently the community plays at various locations, but will run into issues with the grass wearing down to dirt and summer weather drying the grass fields. Adding an artificial turf court will allow for designated play areas that will remain in play condition when snow is not present. Funding will be for the first artificial turf Kato/volleyball court in Eau Claire including poles for nets. Adding a turf Kato/volleyball court will create a social gathering place for our Hmong Community, allow current generations to share their culture with future generations, and allow everyone in the community to learn about Kato.



Source Twin Cities pioneer Press (above, below, and left)



Source St. Paul Parks Conservancy



Source MPR News

City of Eau Claire Planning

203 Farwell St

715-839-4914

